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dent's notes, although essential in clarifying the issues down to incontrovertible essentials, could be more richly supplemented by the whole series of addresses after 1915 in which he brought the conflict to a plane where the people grasped it as a moral issue for which America could fight in self-defense and without imperialistic purposes.

The book reads easily and presents a great body of material interestingly. The hundred pages on America in the war are strong and effective, with gaps, of course, such as the work of the National Research Council and the State Defense Councils, that can better be supplied by later writers.

It is a matter of congratulation that at least one historian has not waited until the last word is in to write on America in the war. The field should not be left to the journalistic historian. But even the historian, and this is the reviewer's chief complaint, must realize that the *Literary Digest* and the *Congressional Record* no longer compass all the utterances that represent public opinion in America.

Narrative of Some Things of New Spain and of the Great City of Temestitan Mexico. Written by the ANONYMOUS CONQUEROR, a Companion of Hernan Cortes. Translated into English and annotated by MARSHALL H. SAVILLE. [Documents and Narratives concerning the Discovery and Conquest of Latin America, published by the Cortes Society, no. 1.] (New York: Cortes Society. 1917. Pp. 93.)

An Account of the Conquest of Peru. Written by PEDRO SANCHO, Secretary to Pizarro and Scrivener to his Army. Translated into English and annotated by PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS. [*Id.*, no. 2.] (*Ibid.* 1917. Pp. 203.)

THIS new society produces handsome books, and has plans which, properly executed, will greatly promote knowledge of its chosen field. The plan is, to print well-annotated translations of original documents and narratives of early Latin-American history that have not heretofore appeared in English. The choices made for the first two issues are excellent. What the Anonymous Conqueror has to say of the natives of New Spain and of their great city, though brief, is of first-hand value, and, now that we have such excellent English versions of the letters of Cortés and the chronicle of Bernal Diaz as those published by Mr. MacNutt and by the Hakluyt Society, perhaps nothing else has a superior claim. Pedro Sancho is less candid and requires more correction, but an extended narrative by a secretary of Pizarro, covering events from the execution of Atahualpa till after the settlement of Cuzco, August, 1533-July, 1534, cannot fail to be of high value, and has been so regarded by historians from Prescott down.

But if the publications of the Cortes Society are to take the rank which its founders desire them to have, more care must be bestowed on

their execution. These two narratives have come down to us, not in their Spanish originals, but only in Italian versions printed in the third volume of Ramusio (pp. 304v-310r, 398v-414v, respectively). It was the obvious duty of the editors to translate directly from Ramusio's Italian. Instead they have translated, and not always correctly, from the translations into Spanish printed by Joaquin Garcia Icazbalceta, the anonymous narrative in the first volume of his *Documentos Inéditos*, that of Sancho in an appendix to his Spanish translation of Prescott's *Peru* (Mexico, 1850), vol. II., and vol. VIII. of his *Obras*. Now Icazbalceta's translations are by no means accurate, and though the editors say that they have compared their version with the Italian, it often fails, as would be expected from the process they have followed, to represent the latter faithfully. In several of the notes to Sancho (notes 56, 57, 82, 120), against passages which the editor thinks obscure, he gives the reader the *Spanish* text, from Icazbalceta's translation, instead of the Italian.

In the translator's preface to Sancho, which is far too meagre to serve as any introduction to the critical or even intelligent reading of the narrative, he says that a small portion of it was printed by the Hakluyt Society in 1872, in *Reports on the Discovery of Peru*, edited by the late Sir Clements Markham. But the Sancho document there printed is something quite different, a list of the shares of plunder distributed at Caxamarca, having nothing to do with our *Relatione*. It was taken from Manuel José Quintana's *Vidas de Españoles Célebres* (Paris, 1845), pp. 185-190, and Markham so states; and Quintana says that he got it from an unpublished manuscript of Francisco López de Caravantes, "Noticia General del Perú, Tierra Firme, y Chile".

The annotations seem to be excellent when they turn upon matters of aboriginal archaeology, of which the editors evidently have much first-hand knowledge. Some of the other notes, however, show great want of care. Where Sancho estimates the treasures of gold wrung from Atahualpa in *pesos* (p. 10), a note explains that "the *peso* is about an ounce". The *peso* of silver was about an ounce (423.7 Troy grains), but the *peso d'oro* was only about 79 grains. Still worse is note 25 in the other volume, about the *marchetto* (Ramusio, a Venetian, is here speaking in terms of Venetian money). It reads, "A small piece of copper money with the effigy of San Marcos [why not St. Mark?] which is worth about two sous of a franc:—Note by Ternaux". This is a meaningless expression, and is a mistranslation of a note by Icazbalceta (I. 381, "dos centavos de franco"), who borrows it from Ternaux Compans's French translation of the Anonymous (*Voyages*, X. 73, "environ deux centimes"), and that book itself was perfectly accessible to any editor, and all three are wrong! The *marchetto* was at this time a Venetian silver coin of three grammes weight (*Corp. Numm. Ital.*, VII. 228), a little larger than our dime. But it is a frequent habit of editors of old documents, and indeed of historians too, to treat with indifference

all statements of money, weights, and measures, and in the case of money to ignore the wide distinction between specific value, or coin-weight, and present purchasing power, though the frequent result is to leave the numerical statement without meaning.

The Early History of Cuba, 1492-1586. Written from Original Sources by I. A. WRIGHT. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1916. Pp. xvii, 390. \$2.00.)

THIS book represents two years of research in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville. "Not one document", says the author, "concerning Cuba in one thousand that exist at Seville has been made public in any way" (p. xv). "I have ignored secondary sources because I know that there has passed through my hands a greater wealth of material for the writing of the history of Cuba than any other person has handled" (p. xvi). "It is not easy, as circumstances now are, for any person who may become my critic to make that examination" (p. xvi). The reviewer quotes the above that it may appear sufficiently clear that he cannot be expected to examine any statement of fact contained in the work, but must consider the merits of the book in a general way.

No previous account of the period is so extensive. Miss Wright's work for that period is more detailed and more satisfactory in every sense than those of Arrate, *Llave del Nuevo Mundo*, written in 1761; Urrutia y Montoya, *Teatro Histórico*, written in 1791; Valdés, *Historia de la Isla de Cuba* (Habana, 1813); Guiteras, *Historia de la Isla de Cuba* (New York, 1856-1866, two vols.); Pezuela, *Historia de la Isla de Cuba* (Madrid, 1868-1878, four vols.); and Rodríguez Ferrer, *Naturaleza y Civilización de la Grandiosa Isla de Cuba*, vol. II. (Madrid, 1887).

Regarding the plan of the work, some objection can justly be raised. It is strictly a chronological history, containing a minute narrative of facts, woven together with a great deal of skill and scrupulous regard for accuracy. But it would, perhaps, have been more useful to have made a separate record of the different phases of the island's history during the period: for instance, discovery, settlements, government, finance, aborigines, slave labor, commerce and industry, social life, religion, military and naval activities, invasion by pirates, etc. The book as written is divided into four parts: I., 1492-1524, Spain takes Possession of Cuba; II., 1524-1550, an Era of Stagnation; III., 1550-1567, French Influence; and IV., 1567-1586, the Menace of the English. The narrative has been supplemented and continued in a series of articles published in *La Reforma Social* (Havana and New York), in the issues of September, October, and November, 1916, and November, 1917, entitled "El Gobierno de Gabriel de Luján en Cuba, 1579-1589". In addition this magazine has published two studies on the origins of the sugar industry and the origins of mining in Cuba by Miss Wright (issues of April and June, 1916, respectively).